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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
12 AT TACOMA

12 JOHN THOMAS BLACK,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 DOUG WADDINGTON *et al.*,

16 Defendants.
17

Case No. C08-5643FDB/JKA

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

18 This Civil Rights action has been referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to Title 28
19 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Magistrate Judges' Rules MJR 1, MJR 3, and MJR 4. Plaintiff was given
20 leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Review of plaintiff's proposed complaint discloses a defect.

21 Plaintiff alleges he was improperly held past his release date. He seeks eight million dollars in
22 damages. Plaintiff does not show or allege he received a ruling in state or federal court that his
23 incarceration was improper. Thus, Plaintiff is seeking damages based on length of time he was
24 incarcerated.

25 In June 1994, the United States Supreme Court held that "[e]ven a prisoner who has fully exhausted
26 available state remedies **has no cause of action under § 1983 unless and until the conviction or**
27 **sentence is reversed, expunged, invalidated, or impugned by the grant of a writ of habeas corpus.**"
28 Heck v. Humphrey, 512 U.S. 477, 487 (1994)(emphasis added). The court added:

1 Under our analysis the statute of limitations poses no difficulty while the state challenges are
2 being pursued, since the § 1983 claim has not yet arisen. . . . [A] § 1983 cause of action for
3 damages attributable to an unconstitutional conviction or sentence does not accrue until the
4 conviction or sentence has been invalidated.

5 Id. at 489. “[T]he determination whether a challenge is properly brought under § 1983 must be made based
6 upon whether ‘the nature of the challenge to the procedures [is] such as necessarily to imply the invalidity of
7 the judgment.’ *Id.* If the court concludes that the challenge would necessarily imply the invalidity of the
8 judgment or continuing confinement, then the challenge must be brought as a petition for a writ of habeas
9 corpus, not under § 1983.” Butterfield v. Bail, 120 F.3d 1023, 1024 (9th Cir.1997) (*quoting Edwards v.*
10 *Balisok*, 520 U.S. 641 (1997)). Plaintiff is challenging the length of time he was incarcerated. He must obtain
11 relief through Habeas Corpus before proceeding with a damage claim under the Civil Rights Act.

12 The court is not certain that amendment of the complaint can cure the defect, or that plaintiff can state a
13 claim. Plaintiff should be given the opportunity to show cause or amend the complaint prior to the court
14 issuing a Report and Recommendation that this action be dismissed. Plaintiff is given until **December 5, 2008**
15 to show cause why this action should not be dismissed for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff may either file a
16 response to this motion addressing the issues raised, or he may file an amended complaint that cures the defect
17 discussed above.

18 If the response or amended complaint do not cure the defect outlined in this order the court will
19 recommend this action be dismissed without prejudice.

20 The Clerk is directed to send plaintiff a copy of this Order and note the **December 5, 2008**, date
21 on the court’s calendar.

22 DATED this 12 day of November, 2008.

23 /S/ J. Kelley Arnold
24 J. Kelley Arnold
25 United States Magistrate Judge
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